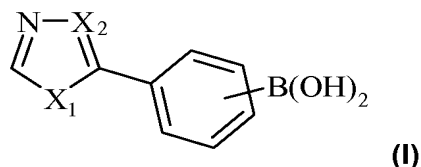


In the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listings of claims

1. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of the Formula I



wherein,

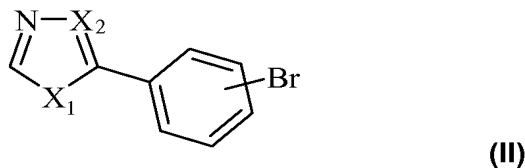
X_1 is selected from O, NR_1 or S; and

X_2 is selected from CH or N;

wherein R_1 is a nitrogen-protecting group,

which comprises :-

the sequential reaction of a compound of the Formula II



with,

- (i) methyl- or an optionally substituted aryl- lithium; and then
- (ii) n-butyl-, s-butyl-, t-butyl- or n-hexyl- lithium; and then
- (iii) a borate ester.

2. (original) The process according to claim 1 wherein X_1 is O.

3. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~ wherein X_2 is N.

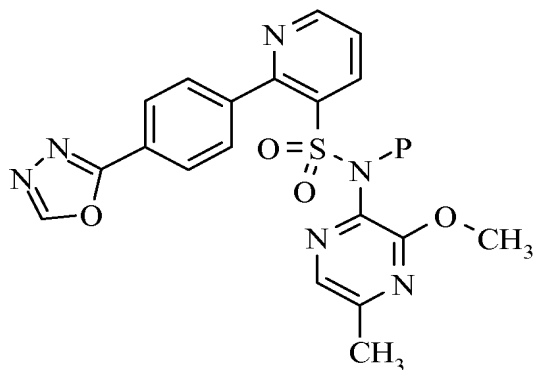
4. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ wherein said methyl- or an optionally substituted aryl- lithium is 4-methylphenyllithium or methyllithium.

5. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ wherein said n-butyl-, s-butyl-, t-butyl- or n-hexyl- lithium is n-hexyllithium or n-butyllithium.

6. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ wherein said borate ester is triisopropylborate.

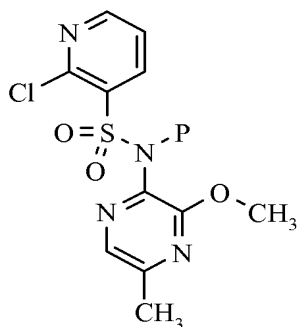
7. (cancelled)

8. (original) A process for preparing compounds of Formula IV:



(IV)

which comprises coupling [4-(1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)phenyl]boronic acid with a compound of Formula III:



(III)

wherein P is a nitrogen-protecting group.

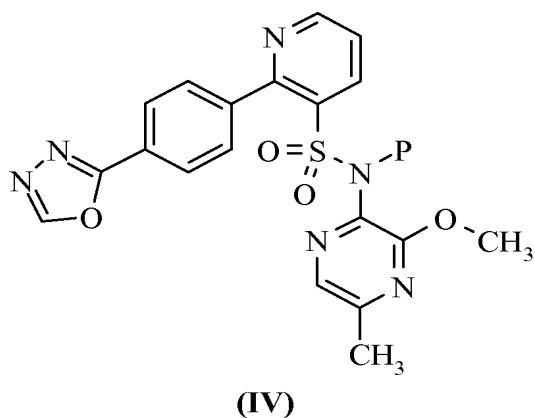
9. (original) The process according to claim 8 which takes place in the presence of

- (i) a source of palladium (0) selected from PdCl_2 , $\text{Pd}(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_4$ or $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$;
- (ii) a suitable ligand selected from triphenylphosphine or 3,3',3''-phosphinidyne tris(benzenesulphonic acid) trisodium salt;
- (iii) a base selected from triethylamine, benzyldimethylamine, N-methylmorpholine, N-methylpiperidine, triethanolamine, ethyldiethanolamine, diisopropylethylamine, potassium acetate, cesium fluoride or potassium fluoride.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The process according to claim 8 ~~any one of claims 8—10~~ wherein P is isobutoxycarbonyl.

12. (original) A compound of Formula IV:



wherein P is a nitrogen-protecting group.

13. (currently amended) A compound of Formula IV as claimed in claim 12[[1]] which is N-(isobutoxycarbonyl) N-(3-methoxy-5-methylpyrazin-2-yl)-2-(4-[1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl]phenyl) pyridine-3-sulphonamide.

14. (new) The process according to claim 2 wherein X₂ is N.

15. (new) The process according to claim 14 wherein said methyl- or an optionally substituted aryl- lithium is 4-methylphenyllithium or methyllithium.

16. (new) The process according to claim 15 wherein said n-butyl-, s-butyl-, t-butyl- or n-hexyl- lithium is n-hexyllithium or n-butyllithium.

17. (new) The process according to claim 16 wherein said borate ester is triisopropylborate.